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Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-11 ISO-00 IO-13 ACDA-12 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 HA-05 AID-05 /122 W
----------071926 041159Z /53
R 041050Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8687
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 5278

EO 11652: XGDS-2
TAGS: PEPR, PINS, CG, IR
SUBJ: ZAIRE-IRAN RELATIONS

SUMMARY: ZAIRE FOREIGN MINISTER HAS DELIVERED MESSAGE FROM MOBUTU TO THE SHAH. ZAIREAN AMBASSADOR UNABLE PROVIDE DETAILS BUT SEEMS TO BE PRESSING FOR WESTERN POWERS TO PROD MOBUTU INTO MAKING CONCESSIONS TO ANGOLAN GOVERNEMENT AND KATANGAN REBELS. REQUEST BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION (PARA 4). END SUMMARY.

1. PRESS CARRIED BRIEF ANNOUNCEMENT MAY 17 THAT ZAIRE'S FOREIGN MINISTER LUMBADI LUTETE HAD AN AUDIENCE WITH THE SHAH MAY 25 AND PRESENTED MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT MOBUTU TO HIM. PRESS SPECULATED MESSAGE DISCUSSED REBEL INVASION OF SHABA PROVINCE AND PROSPECTS FOR IRANIAN FINANCIAL AND POLITICAL ASSISTANCE. WHEN POLCOUNS CHECKED ON THIS STORY WITH MFA AFRICA DEPARTMENT HEAD MAY 30, DEPARTMENT HEAD KNEW NOTHING OF DETAILS DISCUSSED. AS FAR AS HE WAS CON-
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CERNED, IRAN WAS GOIN AHEAD WITH SENDING ITS AMBASSADOR IN EUROPEAN COMMUNITY AS REPRESENTATIVE TO BRUSSELS MEETING ON FINANCIAL ASPECTS OF ZAIRE'S SITUATION BUT WITHOUT ANY COMMITMENT TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE.

2. ON MAY 31 ZAIRE AMBASSADOR MBEKA MAKOSSO CALLED ON AMBASSADOR SULLIVAN AT HIS OWN REQUEST. NATURE OF HIS

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MISSION IS SOMEWHAT OBSCURE. AFTER EXPRESSING THANKS OF HIS GOVERNMENT FOR USG ASSISTANCE DURING RECENT SHABA PROBLEM, MBEKA LAUNCHED INTO A RAMBLING DISCUSSION OF THE NEED FOR ZAIRE GOVERNEMENT TO REACH SOME KIND OF AGREEMENT WITH ANGOLAN AUTHORITIES, IF RECURRENCE OF SHABA AND SIMILAR INCIDENTS TO BE AVOIDED. HE SEEMED TO BE STRESSING NEED FOR HIS OWN GOVERNEMENT TO MAKE CONCESSIONS WHICHWOULD SATISFY THE KATANGAN REBELS AND THE AGOLAN GOVERNMENT WHICH HARBORS THEM SINCE REBELS ARE MEMBERS OF A TRIBE WHICH IS SPREAD OVER TERRITORY SHARED BY ZAIRE, ANGOLA AND ZAMBIA. HE SAID THERE WERE 200,000 REFUGEES FROM ZAIRE NOW IN ANGOLA.

3. WHEN AMBASSADOR SULLIVAN PROBED AS TO HOW THIS MIGHT BE DONE AND WHETHER REBELS ARE REPRESENTED IN ZAIRE'S CENTRAL GOVERNMENT, MBEKA SAID THERE WERE SOME MINISTERS IN KINSHASA GOVERNEMENT BUT THEY WERE REGARDED AS TRAITORS BY THEIR FELLOW TRIBESMEN ONCE THEY WERE APPOINTED. WITHOUT BEING EXPLICIT, MBEKA APPEARED TO BE ASKING FOR USG AND OTHER WESTERN PRESSURE TO GET MOBUTU GOVERNMENT TO MAKE NECESSARY CONCESSIONS.

4. IN COURSE OF THIS DISCUSSION MBEKA REFERRED TO A MISSION TO WASHINGTON HE HAD BEEN ON DURING APRIL 1975. HE REFERRED TO A CONVERSATION WITH DEPUTY SECRETARY INGERSOLL AT THAT TIME ON ZAIRE'S NEEDS AND LAMENTED THAT IT HAD BEEN UNFORTU-NATE TIMING SINCE EVERYBODY'S ATTENTION HAD BEEN RIVETED ON THE FALL OF SOUTH VIETNAM. ALTHOUGH MBEKA ARRIVED HERE JULY
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24, 1976, POST FILES UNFORTUNATELY HAVE NO BACKGROUND INFORMA-TION ON HIM. WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT PROVIDING US HIS BACKGROUND, PARTICULARLY WHAT POSITION HE MIGHT HAVE HELD PRIOR TO COMING HERE (WHEN HE WAS ON THIS MISSION.)

5. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION MBEKA SAID ZAIRE'S FOREIGN MINISTER HAD DELIVERED MESSAGE FROM MOBUTU TO THE SHAH, AND HE THOUGHT THINGS WENT ALL RIGHT. HE WAS ELUSIVE ABOUT COMMENTING FURTHER ON THE VISIT IN A WAY WHICH SUGGESTS TO US THAT HE HAD BEEN COMPLETELY CUT OUT. THIS IN TURN SUGGESTS HE MAY NOT BE IN THE BEST GRACES OF MOBUTU GOVERNMENT.

6. WE ARE TOLD MBEKA MADE SIMILAR CALL ON BRITISH CHARGE.
SULLIVAN

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 04 jun 1978
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Litigation History:
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Review Release Date: n/a
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Secure: OPEN
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Subject: ZAIRE-IRAN RELATIONS SUMMARY: ZAIRE FOREIGN MINISTER HAS DELIVERED MESSAGE FROM MOBUTU TO THE SHAH. ZAIREAN AMBASSADOR UNABLE PRO
TAGS: PEPR, PINS, CG, IR, (MOBUTO SESE SEKO), (PAHLAVI, MOHAMMED REZA)
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